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FRIDAY, MAY 17, 1918.

## Congress and the White House.

Directly after President Wilson told Congress that the war required no probe of the type such as it delights in, he appointed Charles E. Hughes to conduct an investigation of the aircraft situation. That was shrewd politics and good policy. It was politics of the kind that is distinctly Woodrowian. Just at the moment when the man in the street concluded that the President had missed fire with his testy letter to Senator Martin, a clever stroke is made, disconcerting the partisans of Capitol Hill, changing the whole situation with deft skill. There are many pothouse politicians around the country who are honestly convinced that "for ways that are dark and tricks that are vain" the President has the "heavenly Chinese" beaten forty ways from the start. Like burnt children who dread the fire, they have learned to dread his cunning. In politics, as in almost everything else he undertakes, the President is generally a master player when he puts his mind to it.

Charles E. Hughes not only is the titular leader of the Republican party, the standard-bearer of its most recent campaign, but he has a reputation as an investigator that is facile princeps in the land. His great reputation is founded on his probes into gas and insurance in New York State. His integrity and solid habits of mind are national assets. It was nothing less than an inspiration that the White House should call him into the war drama in the capacity of investigator. We are assured now of getting at the facts. We are assured, also, of an end to petty politics. The word of Hughes will go with every man on Capitol Hill. No scandal-monger will dare go beyond his verdict.

It would be futile to speculate on what verdict will be brought in. The main thing is that the inquiry will be free of prejudice, of partisanship, of crack-brained dependence on gossip, of the fog of malice and rumor. Nothing will swerve Charles E. Hughes from his objective of the truth. And it is safe to say that President Wilson will accept the verdict of his late foe in the political lists without question. If the men in whom the administration reposed confidence are shown unworthy of their trust, their fate and their reputation lie in the palm of Hughes. If they have been victims of cabal, if the unfortunate delays and the temporary difficulties with the Liberty motor are shown to be the results of a system for which no man or group of men are responsible, then there will be a welcome vindication. No man is to be prejudged; no man is to be sacrificed to make a Congressional or popular holiday.

Partisan uproar, Congressional inflammation, have their uses. Otherwise we would not have Hughes. Nearly every clever move of the administration has been a counter stroke. The big brains of the country have not been brought to Washington until smaller brains have failed. That much, at least, can be cited against the present war leadership. We started out to manage the war with second and third-rate casts. But the war is distinctly metropolitan and cosmopolitan in every sense. The little fellows failed to make good. Perhaps it was not altogether their fault. The first thing that Charles E. Schwab did was to move the office of the Emergency Fleet Corporation to Philadelphia. This was exactly the move that Rear Admiral Harris, then in the same job, wanted to make three months ago. He was not a big enough man to swing the Shipping Board to his program. Schwab came in with the distinctive understanding that "whatever he says goes." That's one reason why the big man has a huge handicap over the unknown. He is in a position to insist on autocratic authority, and he gets it.

After Gutzon Borglum, Hughes! Some difference, is it not? President Wilson is demonstrating anew the thesis that he always makes the right move—but just in the nick of time.

## Newspaper Heritage.

Many have been the comments, partly critical, partly commendatory, upon the late James Gordon Bennett, and it has been evident that his unique personality has not been fully understood. This is not to be wondered at since he was always more or less a mystery to those with whom he was intimately associated, at least in newspaper work. There is, however, one comment which might have been made but was not, which should have been suggested by Mr. Bennett's career in the management of the New York Herald after the death of his father, who founded that newspaper in the early days of penny journalism.

For the younger Bennett constituted one of the rare exceptions to something which seems to be almost fundamental law, namely: That no son of the founder of a newspaper which became great succeeded to and then maintained and increased the inheritance which came to him by reason of the death of his father. The late John R. McLean took over the Cincinnati Enquirer, succeeding his father, and infused into that newspaper a new spirit suggesting enterprise, a keen understanding of the value of real news, and an unusual gift of so presenting it as to make it attractive and understandable to the reader. The late Samuel Bowles maintained and increased the inheritance which came to him through the death of that remarkable journalist, the senior Bowles, who created the Springfield Republican.

It is a fact that the great journalists, especially those who brought American journalism up to high-water mark, bequeathed their properties to heirs who did not maintain and increase the prestige which their fathers secured. Horace Greeley had no son to whom the Tribune could pass. But George Jones and Henry J. Raymond, who founded the New York Times, remain exclusively identified with the establishment and prosperity of that newspaper. Mr. Raymond's son was a young man of a good deal of intellectual ability, of charming personality, well read, and yet he seemed not to realize that opportunity was at his hands. The son of George Jones cared nothing for the news-

paper end of that property, devoting himself entirely to the building and the plant, and at last marketing these visible properties for a high price. Yet there was a group of men of wealth at one time who were willing to pay \$1,000,000 for the New York Times newspaper, and the only thing they would receive in return for this money was the name and the good will of the paper. Charles A. Dana's son, Paul Dana, a man of unusual attainments, succeeded his father as editor of the Sun for only a few months. Mr. Bennett and John R. McLean are the conspicuous exceptions to what seems to have been, as was said above, a fundamental law respecting the maintenance by the heir of a founder of a newspaper of its traditions, and at the same time keeping step with modern institutions and modern opportunities.

## Where a Prophet Failed.

Were the great Napoleon alive, he'd feel pretty silly over having written, at St. Helena: "All Europe will soon be either Cossack or republican."

But the great Corsican was a sick man at that time. Gallstone colic, atrophied liver, or something equally confusing made him mention Cossacks, instead of Teutons. But Napoleon was not without grounds for his belief in Cossacks, although decidedly erroneous, as is usual with prophets, in basing his prediction on what had been.

History furnishes little more astonishing than the comparison of the Russia of today with the Russia of four decades ago.

Less than three-quarters of a century ago, Russia was the avowed and acknowledged champion of monarchy against democracy. In comparatively recent years, she had crushed the Hungarians and, practically, made Austria a dependent. She had taken from Sweden more territory than she'd left her. Her acquisitions from Poland were as large as the whole of Austria. She had wrested from Turkey in Europe territory larger than Prussia and from Turkey in Asia territory larger than the states of Germany, Belgium and Holland combined. From Persia she had taken a chunk the size of England. She had advanced her frontiers 800 miles toward Vienna, Berlin, Dresden and Munich, 400 miles nearer Constantinople and was a thousand miles nearer India than in earlier times. And her increase in population kept step.

It is pretty difficult to believe that at the middle of the last century Europe was in as great terror of Russian dominion as it ever has been fearful of the Teutonic, but such was the case.

Russia today doesn't herself know what is hers or where she's going. However, she's strongly headed away from autocracy, and it will be a long, long time before she'll rehabilitate Napoleon's standing as a prophet by making all Europe "Cossack," or republican either, for that matter.

Th' other man's grindstone always turns th' easiest.

"Get acquainted first, then marry," says a Cleveland adage. Go ahead, judge, go ahead; tell how it's done.

Former Czar Nicholas tells a correspondent that he has nothing to say. And just think how that man must be stuffed with hot thoughts!

Congressmen who tore their shirts in Congress trying to prevent anybody from doing it will soon be telling their constituents how they themselves licked the Kaiser.

Arthur G. St. James of Denver, Edward St. Luke of Cheyenne, Orville St. John of Seattle, Henry F. St. Peter of Kansas City, and Arthur St. Matthew of Spokane, are marines stationed in San Francisco.

One of our readers calls attention to the fact that "Father, Dear Father, Come Home with Me Now" is not the only song that has been written about father. There is another, "Everybody Works But Father."

A New York court has decided that William K. Vanderbilt is the sole owner of the bed of a river in that State. The bed of the ocean, we believe, is claimed by William Hohenzollern. And he'll need it if his fleet ever comes out.

"Gray hose showing above shoes of tan." This is part of the description of Miss Lusk, on trial for murder at Waukesha. It has come at last! A woman can not be properly described without knowledge of the stockings, or hose, she has on.

An 86-year-old New York jeweler and an 18-year-old manicure girl have been married. He married her because she was rich and she married him because he was handsome. You don't believe it? What other reasons could there possibly be?

"Eat potatoes and save wheat," advise newspapers and posters. The average restaurant charges for potatoes and supplies the bread free, and thus everybody is encouraged to eat potatoes. No? All right, then, have your own way about it.

## A Real Handicap.

The conversation in the lobby of a Washington hotel turned to the subject of handicaps, when the following story was contributed by Representative Frederick H. Gillette, of Massachusetts.

One afternoon an esteemed citizen who was rambling through a suburban town chanced to see a man plowing up a street with a team of mules, and paused to look at the operation. Apparently the job was not an easy one, for time and time again the plowman seemed sorely tried.

"I suppose," remarked the citizen as the plowman stopped to rest, "that that ground is very difficult to break?"

"Yes, it's hard as a rock," answered the plowman, wiping his brow, "but that ain't the worst of it."

"Then you have other troubles," returned the citizen questioningly.

"Well, I should say so," declared the other, with a glance toward the adjacent houses. "With all them women settin' on the front porches how kin a feller cuss a team of mules?"—Philadelphia Evening Telegraph.

## "As Once in Sparta..."

She goes on knitting  
As if the news were a hoax,  
A sweet smile flitting  
About her cool, kind mouth.

Her son, her only son,  
A man as David was one,  
Loved by all Seven Oaks,  
Was lost when the Northern Queen,  
Trapped by a submarine,  
Went down off Howth.

She attends to her chores  
In her usual quick, calm way.  
The town loudly deplores—  
The dried-up spinsters agast—  
Her cold, white face but cold  
Nature, all but one old  
Granny of Gettysburg's day  
Who fiercely takes her part,  
Mumbling: "Ah, but her heart  
Is at half-mast!"

—Richard Butler Glanzer, in the Forum.

## TOM SAWYER AND HUCKLEBERRY FINN! By DWIG.



The hall of fame



Occasional reference is made to Mexico in both House and Senate and some of the members evince a disposition to be dissatisfied with the way our affairs with that country are being conducted. As a matter of fact, we might safely go on the assumption that if the administration saw any reason to interfere there we would not be long in getting men to the affected regions. Without endeavoring to go into detail in the recital of our relations with Mexico there is no question but that we can safely rely on President Wilson watching the Mexican situation with diligence and doing just those things there that are required.

Members who profess to know many alleged defects of the present internal condition of Mexico sometimes find when their words are given to the State Department there is no occasion to worry. Their information has been defective. The State Department has seen things accurately.

We believe the administration will make no mistake whatever in the handling of the Mexican situation. At least, it will not defer action there, if action ever becomes necessary, until our reasons for taking an interest are wiped out.

Gus Karger's introduction of President Taft as "America's best loved private citizen" brings us back to the fact that it would not be the world (living in the world) that very man were again slated to lead the Republican party.

We are not ready to predict that he will do so, of course, but we do say that the remarkable record of President Taft measures up for leadership in such a way that the world must take notice of his position and his unusual acceptability.

On the matter of treaties with foreign nations President Taft is unquestionably in a position to aid America. He has a thorough understanding of America's requirements, he is in sympathy with our ideals and he has a knowledge of how to achieve the ends.

In the widely different field of labor, which must enter into our internal affairs most sharply during the next few years with both laboring men and employers, he is both judge of what is fair to each and yet what must be fair to both if our country is to go ahead as it should with the settlement of this momentous question.

Ofhand, can you think of a better candidate, gentle Republican reader? We don't presume to give Mr. Hays and his conferees any advice but we would suggest to them that if they want to win they might give careful consideration to what manner of a man they must have and just how far any of the possible candidates can exceed Mr. Taft in the things which must count next time.

In justice to the American people no official high or low should deny a thorough airing of the airplane trouble. The true tale of the Liberty motor, for instance, is something to make the blood boil of real Americans. There was no need for putting out such absurd tales, and what excuse the men can give out for so doing we are unable to surmise. We hope there will be a thorough airing of the affair and that as the truth creeps out it will be given to the American people. For no man can imagine the officials here may imagine the war is theirs, and their alone to conduct, there is no denying the fact that the whole people have to furnish men and money to conduct it and are therefore entitled to know the full facts of its conduct. To take any other position is to recede before the same wave we are fighting at this time, on the other side of the world.

The other day B. F. Harris, an Illinois banker, made an address at a big manufacturing convention, addressing in Boston—where they go over addresses pretty carefully, and where, it is safe to say, no one gets away with anything he should not and was given most careful attention. At the close he was greeted by a wave of applause and business men by the scores rushed forward to greet him and give approval of his statements. Publication of his address called for more praise for this Westerner, too. We heard of this and went over his address quite carefully to cull its best parts for the readers of The Herald.

We found them things in it to be distinctly the features. He said:

"The country is not aroused; is not efficient, largely because of the psychology of its leadership, if it is leadership. We have been weak, like Kerevsky, in dealing with facts and

## A LINE O' CHEER EACH DAY O' THE YEAR

By John Kendrick Bangs.

MY GARDEN.  
I cannot have a garden in the country fresh and green.  
I cannot raise the lily and the rose.  
I cannot rise o' mornings with a spirit live and keen.  
And labor where the cherry blossom blows.

But I can have a garden with its flowers of delight  
To fill with joy the very soul of me.  
A garden that is blooming in full blossom day and night  
With buds of human love and sympathy—

A garden that I carry wheresoever I may go.  
Whatever distant journeys I may start,  
That fills my weary hours with a warm and sunny glow,  
As it blossoms in the confines of my heart.  
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traitors; we have trifled like Trotsky with diplomats and our national life, exhibiting, meanwhile, a disconcerting and damning picture. "I think that 'thanks God that we were wholly unprepared' and makes ready to repeat. 'This hour we stand, and for some months have hesitated at the crossroads. The road to the right leads to victory at arms through industrial co-ordination and conservation; the road to the left meets military failure through procrastination and mismanagement.'

"Mr. Gompers makes a poor return to the public for the President's great friendship. If he believes, as he says, that 'labor has most at stake in this war'—though that very phrase makes the impossible separation of union labor from all the rest of us, for 'all' not part of us, have all as well as 'most' at stake," then let him stand up and act on the fact that the salvation of organized labor, of corporate or private interest is absolutely swallowed up and lost sight of in the salvation of the nation.

"I believe the rank and file of labor and our citizenship generally has the patriotism and fortitude to go farther and faster—in the handling of the war—than we win this war, than our political and labor leaders have the moral and political courage and sagacity to direct."

The Secretary of War—the right man in the wrong place—was probably first to start and widely use the vicious "cost plus" system. This, directly and indirectly, is widely responsible for many of our labor and cost troubles. With government haste and the contractor's "plus," labor had an easy task in getting any price it wanted, aided by competitive offers, and various departments and individuals to get the same men, with a 300 per cent labor turn-over in many cases and greatly decreased efficiency.

"We must not forget, however, to charge labor difficulties with the effect of the Adamson law passed as the Survey says: 'Under the influence of a controversy which, for magnanimous and patriotic danger to the public, excluded anything previously known in the history of the country.'"

THE OBSERVER.

## AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN LEADERS QUARREL; TWO KAISERS ALSO

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

tains the interesting statement that in return for the absolute submission of the Austrian army to the German front, the Polish question is to be adjusted as Austria would have it.

Diplomatic dispatches also say that while no one expected that the whole world would be stirred by the week-end conference, certain embassies have apparently been discovered. A dispatch to the Frankfurter Zeitung from its Vienna correspondent indicates that the embassies involve Poland. Significantly he makes no reference to any difficulties in the way of the complete military submission of Austria to Germany.

The same correspondent informs his paper that the discontent of the Slavs is already boiling over against the agreements which they construe as aimed specifically against them. He writes that in the lobby of the Austrian Parliament the Slav deputies are already vehemently announcing that they will fight parliamentary approval of the agreements to the last drop of blood.

Paris Press Opinion.

Paris newspapers, excerpts of which were received here yesterday, indicate that French opinion is inclined to believe that the agreement can never be carried out. The Paris Press says:

"The two Emperors have perhaps outlined the basis of a closer future alliance, but they are obliged to admit beyond the Rhine that all remains to be realized, and that the practical application of the agreement may not be easily concluded."

"It is recognized that the agricultural, industrial and commercial interests of the two, or rather three states, are different or divergent in many respects. Much ado about nothing it may come to. William II, after having made a theatrical demonstration, retreats in good order, and at Vienna the Slavs are rebelling more than ever against the arrangements which they feel are directed against them."

## NEW YORK DAY BY DAY

Special Correspondent of The Washington Herald.  
New York, May 15.—Manufacturing plattitudes has become a great American industry. Men who can strike off plattitudes become writers of the very best sellers not only in book-shops but in the newspaper syndicates.

During the last few years Dr. Orison Swett Marden, Horace Kaufman, Dr. Frank Crane and Gerald Stanley Lee have caused a wide literature of plattitudes to spring into being. The books of these writers are the very best sellers of the day.

There is no intention to belittle the efforts of these writers in calling them "manufacturers of plattitudes." They write articles that make people think and they appear to the better side of a man's nature—but there is no getting away from the fact that the plattitudes. And what is more they make it pay the downy way.

The editorial H. L. Hencken has found that Col. Roosevelt is the master plattitude maker, however. He has dredged up some of his masterpieces and here are a few of them. Honest men are less dishonest than thieves.

Drunkness leads to inebrity. Indolence is a form of inactivity. However, the champion plattitude of modern times appeared recently as a headline in a New York morning paper. It read:

Speaking of plattitude makers, there is a column conductor on a New York paper who was asked by his boss the other day to write a poem on Spring. The editor believes people like spring poems.

The columnist tried to couple some lines about the dismal winter taking flight and the dawn of verdant springtime but he found himself sitting and looking at his work by the hours. Finally he ground this out and sent it to the editor:

Oh hum!  
Sergeant Hugh McCord was demonstrating to the men at Camp Mills the value of the new shrapnel helmet. In the warding of verdant springtime he was wearing a shrapnel helmet. The demonstration was most convincing.

"Hit me on the head," the helmeted sergeant directed Schneider, who picked up a club and whistled away. "See" quoth McCord, after taking several blows without wincing. "They do the trick. Gee, but they are heavy, though."

"See what happens if you don't keep your helmet on," murmured McCord as he came to, fifteen minutes later.

It was just before noon. A hand struck up on Broadway, near the Post Office. The sidewalks were filled with soldiers, double streams of human beings, each atom whirling on his personal affairs. The band was just a band. It was on its way to do its noon time duty on the Sub-Treasury steps.

At the first roll of drums the human traffic thrilled. In a few seconds everybody was marching. Shoulders were straightened, heads came up, and what had been a tangled mass subconsciously became a marching army: inchoate, ragged in action, but still marching, every one.

There was the stenographer in search of her early lunch, the stray clerk of an office boy, the diverging clerk and the traveling man from Toledo, Ohio, up to the elderly magistrate in an anachronistic silk hat and white whiskers, marching, yielding to the spell of the rhythm of other marching feet and the call of martial music. Perhaps there is an auspicious omen in the incident.

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## TO LINCOLNIZE AMERICA

A Great Patriotic Movement—The President Is Interested.

By WALDEMAR TONNER.

At the Washington Hotel, Dr. John Wesley Hill, Chancellor of Lincoln Memorial University, explained the aims and the purpose of a patriotic movement which is arousing keen interest and creating enthusiasm in New York, Chicago, and other large cities, and which soon will number millions of adherents.

Dr. Hill, who is one of the hardest worked men in America, is famous for his brilliant speeches and his pungent epigrams. Accorded an enthusiastic reception by large audiences at the Marlborough Presbyterian Church in London at the time he visited England, he has since his return to America, been engaged in the greatest work of his career—he has not only written what competent critics think will prove the most absorbing account of the life of Lincoln, but by his own personal efforts he has raised most of the million dollar endowment fund for Lincoln Memorial University, and now he is the prime mover in the new organization which has for its slogan, "Lincolnize America!"

I found Dr. Hill optimistic, genial, and brimming over with up-to-date information in regard to what is going on in the leading centers of thought in every section of the country.

"The Lincoln Patriotic Army," said Dr. Hill, "is designed to be a permanent institution for patriotic service to government and people. Such an organization, once begun, can never die. We welcome everyone as a comrade, in the cause of true Americanism. The Lincoln Patriotic Army has issued its call for volunteers—a call which includes every patriotic man, woman and child in the country. Enlistments are pouring in by mail, by phone and by word of mouth."

Asked if there was a renewed interest in the personality of Lincoln since the beginning of the war, Dr. Hill said:

"Thousands are turning back to the study of the life and times of the martyred President for light and guidance in these troublous days. The war is fast bringing a revival of interest in all that Lincoln did and said. The Lincoln Army idea grew out of the successful foundation and development of the Memorial University in Tennessee. The friends of that University, who organized this new patriotic army include names as President Wilson, Theodore Roosevelt, Gen. Leonard S. Wood, and Gen. George S. Patton, Jr., and many others."

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